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43-5~~SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~COMMUNIST COMBAT STRENGTH AND LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS BY
VC MILITARY REGION UNDER THE CURRENT SCALE OF COMBAT

The current Communist combat force in South Vietnam is estimated to total 72,300 men. This force is comprised of 43,000* VC troops, 12,500** NVN troops, and 16,800 local forces. VC/NVN combat elements require a total of 71 tons of supplies per day, 59 tons obtained from internal sources, and 12 tons obtained from abroad. The 16,800 man local force needs 20 tons per day, all of which is procured from indigenous sources. Total requirements for the 72,300 Communist man force equal about 91 tons.

Communist forces in South Vietnam are organized territorially into 5 major military regions numbered 5-9 from north to south. By far the most important of these regions is military region 5 which extends from Quang Tri province in the far north to Darlac and Khanh Hoa in South Vietnam's central area, and contains 12 of the country's 43 provinces. Located within this area are 39% of the total Communist combat force, numbering 28,000 men, who require in excess of 35 tons of supplies each day. Six of the 8 confirmed NVN regiments in South Vietnam are located in this military region, probably comprising over 1/3 of the total combat force within the area. Five of the six regiments are concentrated in two provinces within the region.***

There is a fairly uniform distribution of forces within the other four military regions, MR 5 thru 9. Personnel strength in each of the four regions ranges between 10,000-12,000; altogether these four regions account for about 60% of the

* The equivalent of 86 battalions of 500 men each.

** The equivalent of 25 battalions of 500 men each.

*** The Quyet Tam and 18th regiments in Binh Dinh and the 66, 33, and 32 regiments in Pleiku.

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total Communist combat force in South Vietnam, and 60% of the total logistical requirements. Less than 1% of the total Communist combat force is located in the Saigon/Cholon/Gia Dinh special region. On a lbs. per man per day basis, the requirements in each region amount to slightly over 2 lbs. per man per day for supplies from indigenous sources, and, 3 lbs. per man per day for externally provided supplies.

Binh Dinh province with 7,750 combat troops and Pleiku province with 5,525 fighting men account for 46% of the total requirements in the 12 province MR 5 area. This rather high proportion of total requirements reflects a heavy concentration of NVN forces (5 regiments) within these two provinces. In military region 6 Quang Duc province accounts for 31% of the total Communist force within that region, a percentage which is directly attributable to the presence of two confirmed NVN regiments in that province. Phuoc Long province, also in MR 6, accounts for 51% of the total Communist combat strength in the region, and correspondingly 51% of the region's total logistical requirements. There are no NVN elements reported to be in Phuoc Long province, but with a total force of 5,450 men, Phuoc Long has the highest concentration of VC forces of any province in South Vietnam.

Phuoc Tuy and Binh Duong, together account for 72% of the total logistical requirements (15.4 tons) in the six province area of Military region 7. Hau Nghia, Dinh Tuong, and Kien Hoa comprise over 60% of the total combat force and requirements in MR 8 and An Xuyen and Chuong Thien together account for 38% of the total combat force and total logistical requirements in MR 9.